

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-08-12

09-01-08

NATIONAL SOYBEAN EXPORT ASSESSMENT SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN FOR EXPORT FIELD OFFICES

1. PURPOSE

This notice outlines procedures for the Federal Grain Inspection field offices to use in collecting soybean samples for the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration's (FGIS) soybean export assessment.

2. BACKGROUND

Starting with the 2007 soybean harvest, FGIS began a farm-gate soybean assessment from which 1,112 soybean samples were collected from 27 states across the U.S., directly from country elevators. The objective of this farm-gate assessment is to collect soybean samples at their first point of sale, believed to be country elevators, so that the initial quality of U.S. soybeans coming directly from the farm can be determined.

The farm-gate assessment is projected to continue through the 2011 harvest, collecting 5 years of data in the process. Each fall after samples are collected, full factor analyses will be conducted to assess levels of grade determining and non-grade determining factors for U.S. soybeans. In addition to grade determining factors, a detailed breakout of foreign material (FM) characterization will be conducted to determine various components of the FM. Damaged kernels total, heat damage, FM, FM composition, moisture, oil, protein, splits, test weight, soybeans of other colors, and the resulting grade are all analyzed and recorded.

To get an idea of how the quality of U.S. soybeans differs from the farm-gate to export, FGIS is conducting a soybean export assessment. Like the farm-gate assessment, soybean samples collected from the export assessment will receive full factor analyses (including both grade determining and non-grade determining factors), as well as a detailed breakout of FM characterization. The U.S. soybean export assessment will provide a general overview of how FM composition changes as soybeans move through the marketing chain. Samples gathered from the soybean export assessment will also be used to test for pesticide residues.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This year's soybean export assessment **begins September 1, 2008**, and will continue through January 31, 2009. We expect this assessment to continue at least through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

4. SAMPLE COLLECTION

Each field office is asked to collect a different number of samples based on its historic volume of monthly soybean inspections. In an attempt to correlate the time during which larger volumes of samples are collected with the historic periods of greatest export inspection activity, we have provided the time-frame in which we would like these samples to be collected. We ask that each field office follow their sample collection schedule as detailed in the following table.

FGIS Soybean Export Assessment Sample Collection Schedule						
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
New Orleans	20	54	66	54	62	256
Olympia	3	32	21	12	15	83
Toledo	0	7	5	3	1	16
League City	0	0	0	1	0	1

A management code will be provided to field offices. Field offices should charge all measurable costs (e.g., sample preparation time) for completing the project to the management code.

Please Note: A sample collection kit will be sent FedEx to New Orleans and Olympia containing plastic sample bags containing unique ID's, zip ties, pre-paid pre-addressed FedEx air bills, and FedEx packs to return the required samples in. Toledo's kit will be mailed the week of September 22, 2008, and League City's kit will be mailed the week of November 24, 2008.

5. SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The method of sample collection is up to each individual field office, but the sample collection should be dispersed as evenly as possible across the entire month. For example, if 30 samples were needed for the month of September, one sample would be collected each day. A strategy for New Orleans, a field office with heavy soybean export volume, may be to begin each month by collecting samples from soybean sublots numbered 1 and 15. Field offices may need to adjust their sample collection patterns in an effort to collect samples throughout the entire month. After the desired numbers of samples for the month have been collected, discontinue collecting samples until the start of the next month. If less than the required number of samples are able to be collected in any given month, make up for it the following month by collecting the uncollected number of samples that were required the previous month as well as those required during the current month.

Collect at least a 2,000 gram portion from each sample that is selected for the soybean assessment. Divide the sample into two equal portions, each weighing approximately 1,000 grams or more. Place each separate portion into a bag provided by Market and Programs Analysis Staff (MPAS). On the blank label affixed to these bags, print the CUSUM lot number, the subplot number, and the date the sample was taken; for example, "K5AV1H-13 9/1/08."

Note: Each bag MPAS provides has a unique identification number affixed to it. Because two portions are needed for each sample, two bags will contain the same identification number. Official personnel must ensure that the two portions from the selected sample are placed in bags with the same identification number.

The first portion will be used for grade-determining factor analyses including FM compositional analyses. This sample portion must be sent to the Sioux City Inspection agency, using the pre-paid FedEx air bills.

The second portion will be used for pesticide residue analysis and must be sent to the National Grain Center using the pre-paid FedEx air bills.

Note: Please ensure that for the two portions, one air bill is addressed to Sioux City, IA and the other air bill is addressed to the National Grain Center in Kansas City, MO, so that both portions do not go to the same place.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning the sample collection and analysis to Ross Heiman at (816) 823-2580 or by email at Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov

/s/ John Giler

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